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Uig Sands to Aird Uig, Isle of Lewis (Uig Parish).

C Burgess & MJ Church

University of Edinburgh

Survey

NB 050 360: In Spring 1995, a team from the Department of Archaeology, University of Edinburgh carried out fieldwork in a 1000 hectare area between Uig Sands and Aird Uig in Uig parish. The presence of the large machair area around Uig sands within this survey area led to the examination of the state of coastal erosion not only on the machair but also along the cliff areas to the N and W along the Aird Uig peninsula.

To aid in the description and quantification of the erosional effect within the Uig survey area where sites were being recorded for the first time, it was decided that the survey team should attempt to reassess the sites noted as being at risk to coastal erosion by Armit during his survey of the Traigh na Berie area in 1990.

Survey of the area described above has led to identification of approximately 300 previously unrecorded sites on the Uig Peninsula. These sites range from prehistoric settlement to pre-clearance villages and shieling sites. For reasons of brevity, only a few have been included here.

NB 0464 3680 Loch Mheacleit: crannog.

NB 0335 3615 Between Lochs Baravat and Camasord: mill complex.

NB 0365 3436 Cleidir Loch: crannog/utilised natural island.

NB 0460 3445 Crowlista: pre-clearance village.

NB 0450 3436 S of site at NB 0460 3445: walled island.

NB 0315 3397 Gob Eirer, Crowlista: promontory fort.

The project also included an assessment of coastal erosion sites, focusing on the Uig Sands coastal zone. Initial fieldwalking and usual site recording was backed up by geomorphic mapping and identification of erosion/deposition foci. This will aid in the monitoring of known erosion sites and also potential sites which will appear in erosion foci.

A full report will be lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsors: Department of Archaeology (University of Edinburgh), Russell Trust, Council for British Archaeology, Archaeology Society (University of Edinburgh).